

SC033326

Registered provider: Kirklees Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and run by a local authority. It provides care for up to four children who experience social and/or emotional difficulties.

There were four children living at the home at the time of the inspection.

There has been no registered manager in the home since 9 August 2023. The deputy manager is now the interim manager and is in day-to-day charge of the home. They are supported by the service manager.

Inspection date: 23 August 2023

This monitoring visit

The children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 3 and 4 July 2023. This was because serious and widespread failings were identified that placed children at risk of harm. Ofsted issued two compliance notices under regulations 12 and 25. Ofsted also raised a further four requirements and two recommendations. Actions taken to address these requirements and the recommendations have not been considered as part of this monitoring visit.

During this monitoring visit, the inspectors reviewed the progress and actions that the provider has taken to meet the compliance notices. This monitoring visit included a review of documents, a tour of the building and discussions with staff and one child.

Children continue to go missing from the home. However, the duration of missing episodes for one child has been reduced. The children's missing-from-home protocols do provide the staff with clear actions to follow to help them locate the children as quickly and safely as possible. Nevertheless, the staff do not consistently follow the protocols in place. This exposes the children to the risk of harm.

Leaders and managers have updated the children's risk management plans. These plans include clear actions for the staff to follow to reduce the children's risk of criminal exploitation. The staff are aware of the children's plans, and they make

attempts to reduce the children's time in the community by planning activities and going away on holidays. This is effective for most children, as they have been away on trips. There are ongoing plans in place for these activities to continue.

The interim manager has implemented daily bedroom checks. This is to reduce the risk of weapons being concealed in the home. This new risk management strategy is effective, as unwanted items that have been found in the children's bedrooms have been removed by the staff. This helps to promote everyone's welfare.

A multi-agency approach helps the children to understand their risks from exploitation. Children have access to a drop-in centre when they are out in the community, where they can get food and speak to the staff about any concerns. Staff, in return, speak to the children about the risks of criminal exploitation. To improve the effectiveness of this approach, the staff at the home also speak to the children about the risks associated with criminal exploitation.

There are clear procedures in place to manage the risk of fire. Children now have fire-retardant bedding. This reduces the risk of fire in the children's bedrooms. For children who refuse to take part in the fire evacuation process, they have been told how to leave the home in the event of a fire. One child showed the inspector the fire evacuation route. This means that the child knows how to leave the home safely should there be a fire in the home.

Staff carry out one-to-one sessions with the children regarding fire safety in the home. These sessions provide the children with information on the importance of completing fire drills and how to reduce the risk of fire in the home. From the documents sampled, there was no evidence that the children had been obstructing the smoke detectors in their bedrooms. This is an improvement on the last inspection.

The inspector concluded from this monitoring visit that progress had been made in relation to the compliance notices under regulations 12 and 25. These have been met. However, one requirement has been raised under regulation 12.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/07/2023	Full	Inadequate
30/08/2022	Full	Good
06/01/2022	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
13/09/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i))	23 September 2023
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers; help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment; and help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(iii)(iv)(x))	23 September 2023
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that—	23 September 2023

helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home’s statement of purpose; and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(h))	
The registered provider must appoint a person to manage the children’s home if— there is no registered manager in respect of the home. (Regulation 27 (1)(a)) In particular, leaders and managers should ensure that there is a registered manager in post who is in day-to-day charge of the home.	23 September 2023
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(e))	23 September 2023

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the children’s home is homely and that damage is repaired in a timely manner and to a high standard. (‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards’, page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- The registered person should ensure that there are systems in place so that all staff, including the manager, receive supervision of their practice as per the local authority policy and procedure. Supervision should allow staff to reflect on their practice and the needs of the children assigned to their care and be delivered by an appropriately qualified and experienced professional. (‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards’, page 61, paragraph 13.2)

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC033326

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Kirklees Council

Registered provider address: Civic Centre 3, Huddersfield, Yorkshire HD1 2EY

Responsible individual: Tom Brailsford

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Gemma McDonnell, Social Care Inspector

Mr Lee Riley, Social Care Inspector

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